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NPIC/P&DS/351-65

6 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members, Technical Development Board, NPIC

SUBJECT : Closed Circuit TV System

Declass Review by NGA.

1. On 11 June 1965, a demonstration of a closed circuit TV (CCTV) with a video tape recorder was presented by [REDACTED] This demonstration rekindled a desire for a secure closed circuit TV network within the Center. A communications system such as this would save valuable man hours by speeding up the handling and dissemination of information.

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2. Previously CCTV was considered impractical because of the cost and security requirements. However, as the Center becomes more complex and the cost of labor increases, the savings which TV could bring increase to the point where CCTV may not only be practical but a necessity. The full security problem will only be recognized when the system is in-house and working.

3. In an installation such as this, where photography and graphics are the raw materials as well as part of the end product, only a portion of the communiques can be transmitted verbally. Quite often communications are incomplete unless personal contact is made and the appropriate visual aids are hand-carried. Were it readily possible to communicate visually as well as orally, requests could be transmitted more quickly, guesswork could be replaced by accurate information, re-do orders would be reduced and intelligence briefings could be conducted on the spot within seconds of an important find.

4. Several specific uses for a video system have been suggested by the operating divisions within the Center. Below is a listing of the most important of these:

a. A link between IAD and PAC would help coordinate concurrent analysis of new material. With a video link, status boards could be viewed easily to avoid duplication of effort and new discoveries could be flashed instantly to the proper component for follow-through.

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b. A hook-up from CSD to various stations within IAD and PAG would enable PI's to crosscheck current photo materials with data stored in CSD files without having to go through time-consuming requisitioning and hand-carrying processes. Such a link would also pave the way for an automated central information retrieval system with remote station controls to be operated by the PI's.

c. The communication line now in existence for the PI to order enlarged prints is unreliable. The area of interest on a photograph cannot always be described in a few brief words on a requisition form. A mistake can cause a delay of many hours. With a CCTV connecting the PI to the lab technician, selected areas could be pointed out easily, reducing errors to a minimum.

d. During the normal course of work in Publications Division, questions often arise over briefing boards, reports, drawings, etc. which cannot be answered verbally. Here too, CCTV would save a lot of time and effort in reducing personal visitations.

e. TV links between the analysts in TID and PI's would enable the PI to review the latest coverage plots, and to direct the photogrammetrists in the mensuration of selected areas.

f. CCTV would enable a PI to brief the Director on a new discovery almost as quickly as the discovery is made.

g. Instructions concerning the operation of a certain piece of equipment could be carried to many TV stations throughout the Center and reduce the number of actual briefings.

h. If a video tape recorder were included within a TV network, staff meetings could be recorded for briefing lower echelon staff and division personnel. Live briefings could be recorded for playback to absentees. Canned briefings could be produced for indoctrinating new employees, for training personnel, and for briefing the entire staff with information of general interest. Many of the memos for general distribution might be eliminated in this way.

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5. The general advantages of a CCTV network may be summarized as follows:

- a. Increase in ease, speed and versatility in communication.
- b. Increase in flow of knowledge and skill to operational personnel through briefings and training programs.
- c. Increase in ease, speed and versatility in recording information.

6. In light of these potential advantages it is recommended that P&DS be authorized to contact outside sources, such as; [redacted]

[redacted] which have extensive knowledge of systems analysis, communications and video engineering. The competitively selected company would conduct an objective evaluation concerning our needs for CCTV communications, training and briefing devices. This study would consist of a cost and effectiveness analysis of an in-house CCTV network plus recommendations as to the type, quantity, and placement of video equipment necessary to support present and future requirements of the Center.

7. It is also suggested that until this study is completed, care and constraint be exercised in the purchase of isolated CCTV equipment since it is not likely that these items would be compatible with the network.



Colonel, USAF
Assistant for Plans and Development

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NPIC/P&DS/DB: [redacted] (30 August 1965)